[Shri Ashoke Kumar Sen]

V. Arunachalam and Shri Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh be appointed to the said Joint Committee to fill the vacancies."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Mrs. Margaret Alva to move the Dowry Prohibition Bill. After that I will allow special mentions on the strict conditions that only three minutes will be allowed for each.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Sir, before that there is a bill for introduction only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, there is a Bill for introduction. Mr. P. A. Sangma.

THE CHILD LABOUR (PROHIBITION AND REGULATION) BILL, 1986

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prohibit the engagement of children in certain employments and to regulate the conditions of work of children in certain other employments.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE DOWRY PROHIBITION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1986

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, and to make certain necessary changes in the Indian Penal Code, the Codes of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, be taken into consideration."

Sir, in pursuance of the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Committee of the Houses to examine the question of the working of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, presented on 11th August, 1982, the Dowry Prohibition Act was amended by an Act of Parliament on the 11th September, 1984, which makes the provisions of the original Act more stringent and effective against offenders.

The Central Government issued a notification on the 19th August, 1985 for bringing into force the Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 1984 with effect from the 2nd of October, 1985. Although the Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 1984 was an improvement on the existing legislation, there was a general feeling that the amendments were still inadequate and fall markedly short of the recommendations made by the Joint Select Committee.

Accordingly, wide-ranging consultations with women Members of Parliament, representatives of women's and voluntary organisations, legal-aid groups and women lawyers were convened by the Department of Women and Child Development to discuss implementation of the Act as well as its deficiencies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will make a sweet speech...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Very short, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN:...which means short.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Very short. The Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1986 seeks to further amend the existing Act making the provisions more stringent and